

Appl. No. 09/500,887
Amdt. dated May 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 30, 2002

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the Revised Amendment Format as set forth in the Notice provided on the USPTO web site for the Office of Patent Legal Administration; Pre-OG Notices; signed 1/31/03. Claims 15-18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner has pointed out an evident lack of proper form for antecedent basis for the term hub in claim 20 as formulated. Accordingly, claim 20 has been amended to cure the formal deficiency. A hub is introduced indirectly as a connection with the home connection box. An exemplary hub is introduced directly as an element of a branching node. Each branching node thus has or comprises a hub, and each home connection box is connected to one hub in its local branching node.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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